THE APPROPRIATE NAME IN THE *BUCOLICS* OF VERGIL

BY

STANLEY SHERMAN CARPENTER

A.B., Wheaton College, 1940

A.M., University of Illinois, 1941

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
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The study of the appropriate name in Greek and Latin literature has been carried on to some extent by several doctorands at the University of Illinois. Five dissertations and one small paper on different phases of the subject have appeared in the last twenty years. In general these, with appropriate variations, follow the general pattern set forth by J. C. Austin in 1922 (*The Significant Name in Terence,* University of Illinois Studies in Language and Literature, vol. 7, no. 4). Dr. Austin proved that Terence employed the significant name with either individual or type significance.

In 1933 S. W. Paine *(Aspects of the Appropriate Name in Greek)* examined 1558 names of known historical characters. Of this number he found 18.9% to be appropriate, and thereby concluded that it was hardly justifiable to reject a character as unhistorical merely because of the appropriateness of his name.

In 1938 Miss G. M. Goode (Mrs. J. H. Young) *(The Appropriate Name in Petronius)* demonstrated that all the characters in Petronius bore names of proper significance as regards their social position or individual personality.

In 1939 W. M. Seaman *(The Appropriate Name in Plautus)* in an exhaustive examination of the first six plays of Plautus proved that the playwright carefully assigned appropriate names to his *personae* and often made them significant in several different respects.

In 1942 H. L. Russell *(The Appropriate Name in the Metamorphoses of Apuleius)* concluded that of the 52 names in the *Metamorphoses* each is appropriate, in one or more ways, with the single exception of Babulus, which, as he plausibly argued, was probably not a proper noun at all, but merely a derisive adjective.

The present study, following the general method of the pre-

ceding ones, examines the appropriate name in the *Bucolics* of Vergil. Although various commentators have pointed out the significance in one or more ways of certain designations in the *Eclogues,* nothing like a detailed examination of all the names has ever been made. Servius in his famous Vergilian commentary often touched upon the appropriateness of some designation, though at times his statements are far too sweeping.

All the names in the *Bucolics* have been examined in alphabetical order, regardless of the importance of the character, or the sequence of his appearance in the *Eclogues.* The names of deities, however, prominent historical characters, geographical and mythological designations have not been considered at all, for obvious reasons.

In the consideration of each name the following procedure was adhered to: first, the description of the character as it appeared in Vergil; second, the occurrence of the name elsewhere outside of Vergil, both in literature and in epigraphical sources; third, the etymology of the name; fourth, its appropriateness.

In deciding the appropriateness of a name it is possible to employ several criteria. The most obvious is that of literal etymology, which may be appropriate to the character either as an individual, or as a type. To possess individual appropriateness a name may be in keeping with a striking physical feature, or some unusual mental, moral, or aesthetic traits, or a peculiar role in the *Eclogues.* To have type significance the name may refer to the social class to which the person belongs, or to the occupation in which he is engaged.

Then again a name may be appropriate *by antiphrasis,* that is, where the literal meaning is directly opposite to the interpretation of the character. This method seems not to be employed by Vergil in the *Eclogues.*

Lastly it is possible for a name to be appropriate because of the connotation which it possesses in the minds of the readers. This often occurs in the case of a very famous historical or myth-

ological person. This criteria has been used extensively in the *Eclogues.*

The present study does not concern itself with any allegory which may be present in the *Bucolics.* For our purpose it makes little difference whether Tityrus is Vergil, or Palaemon is Octavian. The characters have been examined with respect to their actual portrayal without venturing into the devious and highly uncertain paths of allegorical research. This does not mean that the writer denies much of the allegorical speculation which has been inherent in the study of the *Eclogues* for centuries, but rather that in such a study as this it is most important to build upon tangible and unquestioned material.

The results of this investigation may be briefly summarized as follows: With the exception of deities and prominent historical and mythological figures, the remaining 34 names in the *Eclogues* have been found to be appropriate in one or more ways with the possible exception of Stimichon, although even in his case Vergil may have desired to give the impression of effeminacy through his designation. Some etymological appropriateness has been discovered in all the designations. Many of the characters have a certain further significance in their names aside from the etymology. Usually this is an appropriateness derived from a famous historical or mythological figure, whose name produced a connotative atmosphere ever after. There is also quite apparent a tonal significance by which many of the names through their very richness and beauty of sound, seem admirably suited to the polished verse of the *Eclogues.*

VITA

Stanley Sherman Carpenter was born February 27, 1917, in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended the public schools of Newtonville, West Newton, Watertown, and Pittsfield, all in Massachusetts, and was graduated from Pittsfield High School in June, 1934. In September 1936 he matriculated at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, from which institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude* in Greek, in June 1940. Since September 1940 he has pursued his studies in the Graduate School of the University of Illinois. He received a graduate scholarship for the academic year 1940-41, and in June of that year obtained the degree of Master of Arts in Classics. He was awarded graduate fellowships for the years 1941-42 and 1942-43. In June 1941 he married Miss Alice Luken of Wheaton, Illinois, who is a former student of Drake University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and other honorary organizations. He taught for a short period in 1943 at Rockford College. His graduate work has been done with Professors W. A. Oldfather, H. V. Canter, B. E. Perry, Heinrich Gomperz, H. A. Sanders, L. E. Lord in Classics, and Professor A. E. Murphy in Philosophy.